

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-10 are pending.

Claims 1-10 are subject to an election requirement.

Claim 6 has been amended.

Claims 2 -5 and 8 have been withdrawn from consideration.

No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 6 - 7 and 9-10 are hereby submitted for reconsideration.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has subjected claims 1-10 to an election requirement. Claims 2-3 are in group a1, including claims 1, 4-5, 7/8 and 9-10 and include the outer layer being of a fibrous material. Claim 6 is in group a2, including claims 1, 4-5, 7/8 and 9-10 and includes the outer layer being of a non-fibrous material.

Applicant notes that claims 4 and 5 both depend from dependent claim 2 in group a1 and have been treated as included in this group.

Claim 7 is in group b1, including claims 1, 6/2-3, 4-5 and 9-10 and includes the outer layer being wound around the surface of the element. Claim 8 is in group b2, including claims 1, 6/2-3, 4-5 and 9-10 and includes the outer layer being arranged longitudinally along the surface of the element.

In response, Applicant has elected to continue prosecution on claim 6 from group a2 and claim 7 from group b1. As such, Applicant has withdrawn claims 2-5 and claim 8 from further consideration at this time.

In addition to election of claim 6 from group a1, claim 6 has been amended. The amendment to claim 6 does not interfere with the election requirement because the amendment to claim 6 has not introduced any subject matter, such as an indication of a fibrous material, which conflicts with the withdrawn subject matter of claim 2-5.

Applicant notes that claim 1 is currently generic and the it is intended to reintroduce now withdrawn claims 2 -5 and 8 when generic claim 1 is allowed.

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Amendment dated March 14, 2005  
Reply to Office Action dated February 14, 2005

Alternatively, if no generic claim is allowed, Applicant specifically reserves the right to continue prosecution of the withdrawn claims in a separately filed divisional application.

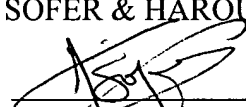
In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention as claimed is now in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of this application they are invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted

SOFER & HAROUN, LLP

Dated: 3/14/05

By:

  
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